Scirpus Coloradoensis sp. nov. — Annual, uliginous, similar to *Scirpus nanus;* culms tufted, filiform, 4 cm. high or less. Spikelet solitary, ebracteate, linear-oblong, acutish, 3–5 mm. long, about 2 mm. thick: scales lanceolate, acutish, the keel green, bordered by two brown bands, the margins scarious: stamens apparently two: bristles none: achene brown, obovate, 1 mm. long, trigonous, narrowed at the base, the apex scarred by the base of the deciduous style, the surface finely papillose, the papillae arranged in irregular transverse lines.

Shore Lake, Larimer County, Colorado, *J. H. Cowen*, July 21, 1896.

This species differs from *S. nanus* in the darker scales, the absence of bristles, and the darker colored papillose achene, the achene of *S. nanus* being finely longitudinally lined.

N. L. Britton.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

April 12, 1904

The meeting was held at the New York College of Pharmacy, with Dr. MacDougal in the chair. The name of Miss A. Irva Lee Kuter, 1264 Lexington Avenue, New York City, was presented by the nominating committee and she was elected to active membership in the Club.

The first paper of the evening was by Professor L. M. Underwood on "*Cyathea* and its allies in Jamaica." One of the objects of Professor Underwood's trip to Jamaica last year was to study the tree ferns in the field. Specimens usually show a single pinna without its connections or any part of the caudex. Such material has been used for types and one species has been described from a single pinnule. Although a species which is well known can often be recognized by a fragment of a good specimen, it should show as much as possible of a pinna, its connection with the main rachis, and part of the caudex.

The Cyatheaceae or tree ferns mostly have an elongated caudex or trunk but a few are herbaceous. The more distinctive family characters are furnished by the sporangia, which are rounded-triangular with complete ring and are sessile or very

shortly stalked. There are six genera in the West Indies, distinguished by the character of the indusium, habit and cutting of the leaves.

Cyathea arborea is the oldest and best known of the West Indian tree ferns, and the only one common to most of the islands, many of the species being found only on the islands on which they were originally described. It occurs at an elevation of 1,000 to 2,000 feet and forms a handsome tree with a spread of 14 to 18 feet. Above this it is replaced by a similar but larger species of *Alsophila*. *Cyathea arborea* and *C. elegans* are noticeably distinguishable by the caudex, that of the former being smooth while that of the latter is very rough and shaggy. *C. nigrescens* is common to Jamaica and Cuba. *C. insignis* is a handsome plant, but as only two were seen, and these represented, perhaps, 200 years growth, they were not taken for specimens, but notes were made on the trunk characters. A fine specimen, brought by Professor Earle, is in cultivation at the conservatory of the Botanical Garden. Of the 16 species of *Cyathea*, which are not doubtful, 13 are endemic in Jamaica; three are known only from type specimens. The sharp prickles of these and other species secrete a poison, and wounds from them are very painful, so that collecting on the steep hillsides is likely to be attended with considerable discomfort. The genus *Alsophila* has three species which are well known. *A. armata*, occurring at 4,000 to 5,000 feet elevation, has a usual height of 40 to 45 feet and is the most graceful plant of the island. It is armed only with weak bristles. *Alsophila aspera*, which is a lower tree, has smooth leaves but prickly petioles. It occurs at about 1,500 feet elevation. Two of the species are endemic. *Hemitelia* has one species described early in the last century, which is probably extinct and two others very little known.

A species of *Lophosoria* has a dense bloom on the under side of the leaves and is somewhat xerophytic in habit. It has merely a woody base.

Cnemidaria is distinguished by its habit and the cutting of its leaves. It has veins uniting near the midrib to form meshes.

Amphidesmium, with one herbaceous species from Trinidad and South America, differs from all other ferns in that the veins bear a second or even third sorus.

Most of the species discussed were illustrated by herbarium specimens and by portions of their trunks.

The second paper was by Dr. P. A. Rydberg on "The Flora of Northwest America." A general discussion of the manuals available for the identification of the plants of different parts of the United States was given, and a review of Mr. Howell's flora of the Columbia River region. The paper is soon to be published.

William T. Horne,
Secretary pro tem.

NEWS ITEMS

Guy N. Collins, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Washington, is in Jamaica, investigating and photographing economic plants.

O. F. Cook, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, is in Guatemala, engaged in studies of rubber and other economic plant-products.

Professor Francis E. Lloyd lectured on May 6 before the American Philosophical Society at Philadelphia on "The Vegetation of the Island of Dominica."

Willard W. Eggleston, C.E., of Rutland, Vermont, has been appointed a museum aid at the New York Botanical Garden, beginning work on June 1.

William R. Maxon, of the U. S. National Museum, sailed for Jamaica on May 14 with the purpose of making collections, especially of ferns, in the John Crow Mountains.

At the May meeting of the Board of Managers of the New York Botanical Garden, Dr. W. A. Murrill was elected assistant curator in place of Professor F. S. Earle, resigned, and Dr. D. T. MacDougal was advanced to the rank of assistant director.

Marshall A. Howe, assistant curator of the New York Botanical Garden, expects to sail for England on June 4. He is commissioned by the Garden to visit European museums and herbaria with special reference to studying collections of marine algae. Until September 15, manuscript intended for publication in Torreya may be addressed to Dr. John Hendley Barnhart, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, New York City.